

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2019 -48

URGING THE COUNTIES AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE STATE OF HAWAI'I TO ALLOCATE ADEQUATE BUDGET AND RESOURCES TO PROVIDE PROPER STAFFING TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY AND EQUITABLE SERVICES IN HAWAI'I'S RURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Hawai'i's rural communities regularly receive less services than their urban counterparts, while the need is great and the context of rural living requires more, not less, resources, thus creating an inequity; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians represent a disproportionately large portion of the lower socio-economic rung who live in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians choose to remain in, or return to, these rural communities due to genealogical ties and their kuleana to these specific 'āina; and

WHEREAS, community members in rural areas rely on a deep connection to each other and their public servants to create an intimate understanding of the circumstances and nuances of each specific community in order to ensure public safety and adequate knowledge of each area; and

WHEREAS, areas such as the Puna district on the island of Hawai'i have had many instances where a single officer is on duty during a shift; and

WHEREAS, there are certain calls for assistance that require more than one officer to respond in order to ensure officer safety and adequate response, yet they are unable to provide that in a timely manner, and there has been many instances where the public has had to wait for hours for a response; and

WHEREAS, areas such as North Hilo district on Hawai'i island has a police station, but no officers or leadership assigned to that district but is serviced by the adjoining district of Hāmākua which creates a disconnect in distance and understanding between the community and officers from a different district, and causes extra work and expense for Hāmākua officers servicing cases that are adjudicated in a different district, which pulls them even further away from their duties to North Hilo; and

WHEREAS, according to a KITV report on March 4, 2019, with information cited from the State of Hawai‘i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO), Kaua‘i has 19 vacancies with an anticipated nine more vacancies this year, O‘ahu has 250 vacancies with 250 officers eligible for retirement this year, and Maui has 48 vacancies with 19 ready to retire, which points to the staff shortage that affects rural areas; and

WHEREAS, public safety in rural areas are often compromised by the lack of adequate and appropriate staffing and resources in their communities, and this need should be addressed and rectified.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 60th Annual Convention in Lahaina, Maui, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Lā‘au Pau, this 16th day of November 2019, urging the counties and police departments in the State of Hawai‘i to allocate adequate budget and resources to provide proper staffing to ensure public safety and equitable services in Hawai‘i’s rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chiefs of Police for each county request that the respective county council appropriate resources for equitable staffing to the rural communities they serve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayors of each county in the State of Hawai‘i, every police chief in the State of Hawai‘i, every police commission in the State of Hawai‘i, County Council members of each county, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Lā‘au Pau on the 16th day of November 2019, at the 60th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Lahaina, Maui.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hailama V. K. K. Farden'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hailama V. K. K. Farden, President